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Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:56:05 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

Cable
Text:

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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

March 05, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1091 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: PHUM, PREL, PGOV, ELAB, KSEP
Captions: None
Subject: UAE: USG HUMAN RIGHTS STRATEGY
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 01091

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: POL
INFO: RSO AMB DCM P/M ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM: RALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: POL: MMENARD
CLEARED: POL: SWILLIAMS; CGD: TLERSTEN; PAO; TPONCE

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OO RUEHC RUEHZM RUEHDI
DE RUEHAD #1091 0641427
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 051427Z MAR 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8707
INFO RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHDI/AMCONSUL DUBAI 2846

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 001091

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA, NEA/ARP, NEA/RA, DRL/CRA AND DRL/PHD

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ELAB](#) [KEM](#) [KSEP](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UAE: USG HUMAN RIGHTS STRATEGY

REF: STATE 13796

11. This cable has been coordinated with Congen Dubai.

12. We offer the following comments in response to reftel request for a summary of Post's actions in 2002 to encourage respect for human rights in the United Arab Emirates.

13. Since its independence in 1971, the United Arab Emirates has transcended rapidly from an undeveloped country to a dynamic regional economic power with an advanced infrastructure and a diverse urbanized population. In the process, the UAE Government has granted increasing protection for human rights in many areas. Embassy Abu Dhabi and Consulate Dubai have encouraged the continuation and broadening of this progression through a strong public

diplomacy program and an active dialogue with all levels of government and civil society.

¶4. Throughout the year, the Embassy and Consulate General used public diplomacy programs to encourage respect for human rights. We utilized the numerous visits of U.S. government officials, NGOs and private individuals as tools to engage with the government, civil society and the public through media interviews, lectures, roundtables and hosted gatherings for various political, academic, and social leaders. We also used official functions to promote human rights, for example, at the annual Independence Day reception we used a photographic exhibition to highlight the role of minorities and immigrants in the development of our country.

¶5. We continued to highlight and promote the role of women, journalists and civil society activists in a number of ways. To encourage the enhanced participation of women in public life and business, the Ambassador met regularly with UAE First Lady Shaykha Fatima Bint Mubarak and other women leaders and hosted regular get-togethers for women from numerous disciplines. The Public Affairs Section hosted a Ramadan iftar for journalists and embassy officials, and awarded a public diplomacy grant to the country's largest environmental NGO, which is led by an Emirati woman.

¶6. At the encouragement of embassy and consulate officials, a number of Emirati officials, academics, journalists and other individuals participated in International Visitor Programs and other exchanges and conferences that included components promoting respect for human rights. For example, two police officers attended an International Visitor Program on monitoring and combating trafficking in persons. And, the Embassy facilitated the attendance of a Ministry of Justice official in a judicial reform exchange program.

¶7. To highlight our commitment to the advancement and protection of human rights in the area of trafficking in persons, the Ambassador added trafficking in persons to the agenda for the first U.S.-UAE Strategic Dialogue in November 2002 to build on the excellent strides made by the UAE Government in the implementation and enforcement of a child camel jockey ban in September 2002. And, furthering the U.S. policy of promoting religious freedom, we expressed concern to the UAEG about the prosecution of an expatriate pastor for proselytizing.

¶8. In 2003, Post will continue to pursue an activist approach with the UAEG. An official visit in January 2003 by Department of State officials from the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons provided an excellent opportunity to engage senior Emiratis on this important transnational crime and human rights issue. We will continue to utilize the annual reports on human rights, religious freedom and trafficking in persons as tools to promote and encourage respect for human rights in the UAE.

WAHBA